

Claim 1 has been cancelled and new claim 15 presented. New claim 15 was drafted to overcome the objection under 35 USC 112. Claims 9, 11, 13 and 14 have been revised and all claims are now dependent upon claim 15.

Claim 15 now requires means, associated with at least one of the rods, extending in a direction inclined relative to the plane of the rods, to minimize accidental dislodgement of the hangers from the rod when the base is mounted on a substantially vertical surface. None of the references, whether taken individually or collectively, teach or suggest the desirability of accidental dislodgement minimization means for use when the holder is mounted on a vertical surface.

As the Examiner correctly points out, Shafto's rack has no mounting means. It is not designed to be mounted on a surface and is not capable of being mounted on a surface, especially a vertical surface. Hence, it requires no accidental dislodgement minimization means. Further, Shafto does not teach a rod section situated in a direction inclined relative to the plane of the rods which support the hanger bottoms.

Zizinia is not a hanger holder or rack at all. It is a hanger itself. While it has mounting means, the mounting means clearly could not be used on Shafto's rack, which is not designed for mounting. There is no suggestion as to the desirability of

altering Shafto's rack for mounting on a surface, as Shafto's rack is designed for transporting hangers from customers to distribution centers.

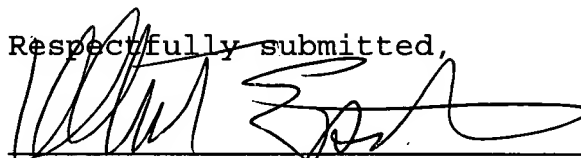
Lee is also not compatable with Shafto. Shafto employs rods to retain the hangers, whereas Lee utilizes portions 10, 16 and 18 for this purpose. Hence, there would be no reason to make the proposed combination. Moreover, Lee does not teach any rods or means associated with the rods, extending in a direction inclined relative to the plane of the rods, to minimize accidental dislodgement.

Accordingly, none of the references, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest applicant's invention as defined by new claim 15.

Claims 2-14, dependent upon claim 15, patentably distinguish over the references for the same reasons as claim 15. Moreover, none of the references teach the rods with a bent end section (claim 2) connecting the rods (claim 3) which is arcuate (claim 4) or a third rod joined to the section (claim 7), each having an upwardly bent section (claim 9). None teach three rods, each with a bent section (claim 11).

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure (orig. revised drawings)